

Minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Staff Present: Veronica Moreno, Interim City Manager  
Lourdes Aguirre, Finance Director  
Danny Denogean, Public Safety Director and Chief of Police  
Betty Villegas, Housing Authority Director  
Josue Licea, Planning Director  
Jon Paladini, City Attorney

Councilors Present: Mayor Paul Diaz  
Vice Mayor Herman Lopez  
Acting Mayor Rita Rogers  
Councilor Anita Romero  
Councilor Cesar Aguirre (Absent)  
Councilor Brian Flagg  
Councilor Roxanna Valenzuela

Others Present: Michael - South Tucson Fire Reserve  
Capt. Andy Luna, South Tucson Fire  
Mr. and Mrs. Eleazar De La Cruz  
Tom Boyle  
Gregorio De La Cruz

Mayor Diaz called the Regular Agenda Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, and Land Acknowledgment and Mission Statements.

#### ITEM #03 – LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND MISSION STATEMENT

Acting Mayor Rogers: The Mission Statement of the City of South Tucson is to build up this community through mutual cooperation between we, the Council, and we are your public servants, and you are our citizens so that jointly we can build a safer and stronger City in South Tucson.

Vice Mayor Lopez: On behalf of South Tucson residents, we honor the Tribal Nations who have served as caretakers of this land from time immemorial and respectfully acknowledge the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the multi-millennial presence of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe within South Tucson. Consistent with the City of South Tucson’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, we strive toward building equal-partner relationships with Arizona’s Tribal Nations.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

#### ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL

Mayor Diaz: The next item is Roll Call, Manager, please.

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor, Roll Call:

Vice Mayor Lopez. Present.  
Acting Mayor Rogers. Here.  
Councilor Romero. Here.  
Mayor Diaz. Here  
Councilor Flagg. Here.  
Councilor Aguirre. Not present as of yet.  
Councilor Valenzuela: Here.

Mayor Diaz: We do have a quorum.

**ITEM #05 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Diaz: No minutes are available.

Councilor Flagg: So, Paul, does that mean like next time there will be the Minutes?

Mayor Diaz: Yes, or when they become available.

Ms. Moreno: Yes Mayor, Councilor Flagg, the Minutes are typically done before each Council meeting; however, the transcriptionist that works for us advised she had a death in her family and was unable to do it. The Minutes are posted on our website, the audios, so that complies with State law. So, as long as they are posted on the website within three days of the meeting, then we are in compliance with State law and then we bring it to Mayor and Council for approval.

***Call to the Public:***

Mayor Diaz: Does anybody in the public like to address the Council? There are cards out there to fill out if you care to, if anybody would like to address the Council. Seeing that we have none, we will go ahead and go to Item #06.

**ITEM #06 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS**

**MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION: "LETTER CARRIERS" STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE DAY**

**SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS - BOND FREE & SELF-IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Acting Mayor Rogers: Yes, Mr. Mayor, I'm going to tell everybody about this item, and it is this Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, from noon to 4 p.m., here in the great City of South Tucson. It's free and it's at 440 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, which is right across the street from Casino Ballroom, if you all know Casino Ballroom, just across the street. Four hours, everything is free, and this is what is going to happen. Youth and adults, bring clothing, if you have any clothing that is clean and good, etc., that you can give to others, they are going to have clothing tables for the people to give to others. That's going on, and then the other thing is it's going to be clothes for all ages and all sizes, and also, it's going to be food, food, food. No price for anything, no money needed. I pretty much told you all of it but here's what happens there for the four hours. There's activities, there's workshops, there's free food, there's music, there's a resource fair and of course the clothing thing. That's all free and we want you all to come and it's 440 E. 26th Street, across from the Casino Ballroom, and it is noon to 4, no cost. It's called Earth Day.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Acting Mayor Rogers: I want to see all of you there. Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I have a couple of events here. One of them is Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00-2:00 at the Sam Lena Library and the purpose is to drop unused and old drugs. So one of the things they said was they don't want no needles, inhalers, or any kinds of liquids, just pills. And it's at the Sam Lena Library. And then there's also, on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at Kiosk de los Ninos right there on 35<sup>th</sup> Street, there's some people that are going to do some kind of celebration on the clean-up committee on the Greenway and they are going to have a planting. They are going to have burritos, and I imagine they are going to have something else to drink there. So, this is done by the Tucson Clean and Beautiful and the South Tucson Prevention Intervention and Treatment. And then the next one is on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-7, at the El Rio Neighborhood Center at the patio and multi-purpose. It's just a celebration of what's going on in the South side of the City where they are going to have a bunch of people out there just talking and celebrating and if you want to get to know Congressman Grijalva, he's running for re-election, and I'm sure there will be other political people at this event here. The address is 101 W. Irvington Street. And that's all I have, Mr. Mayor.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, so does anybody else have any reports?

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, Roxie and I and everybody at Casa Maria would like to invite you to a celebration. May 1<sup>st</sup> is not only the International Workers Day, it's also the birthday of the Catholic worker movement, 90 years old, started in New York by Dorothy Day who the church is considering making a Saint, an official Saint. And it's also a celebration of Casa Maria being in Tucson for more than forty years. It's May 1<sup>st</sup>, Monday, it's at El Casino Ballroom, 6-7:30 and we want everybody to come. We are going to have birria, calabacitas, rice and beans. The cooks are really good. The Mariachis Las Aguilas are going to be there, and we want to talk to people when we are there about doing this campaign to get rid of the worst slumlord in all of Pima County, Mr. Brian Bowers, you who all live here know all too well. That guy needs to go. We want to have a legal advisor here in the City come and talk about legal ways to get it, but also, we are into raising a bunch of money. We bought the El Camino Motel, we want to buy all those motels starting with Spanish Trail and South Sixth Avenue Suites. So it's time for us to kind of like use our capital, our social capital, get that money and like, get rid of Brian Bowers and keep South Tucson from being gentrified. So that's what we're doing. Roxanna's got an invitation for everybody, and she's also got a thing we're sending out tomorrow to our mailing list, which is 4,500 people, inviting them to the party and telling them what's going on in South Tucson. Thank you, and please come May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Diaz: If we are done with announcements here, I do have a Proclamation that I would like to read. It is in regards to the Letter Carriers. It states, "WHEREAS: Every year on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food as part of the nation's largest one-day food drive, distributing the donations to local food banks; and WHEREAS: The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day is just one example of how letter carriers work to make a difference in the lives of those they serve. Since the pilot drive was held in 1991, more than 1.82 billion pounds of food have been collected; and WHEREAS: We recognize our letter carriers for their hard work and commitment to their communities. All of the food collected in our community stays in our community, and we support letter carriers' efforts to help us

with the need in our community; and WHEREAS: We also recognize the noteworthy milestone of 31 years that the National Letter Carriers' Food Drive celebrates in 2023. Now, therefore, we the City Council of the City of South Tucson, by the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim this 13<sup>th</sup> day of 2023, as "Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day" in the City of South Tucson and County of Pima, and we encourage the citizens of our community to support the food drive by placing non-perishable food items in or near your mailbox on Food Drive Day. The letter carriers will pick it up while delivering the mail, and together, we can all help to feed our hungry." So that's the Proclamation and we hereby sign it. Thank you.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: And there is another announcement here regarding the Sustainability Partners. What this is, it's called the Tucson 2030 District. In other words, the summary is that the Tucson 2030 District is interested in conducting an energy and water use audit on the City of South Tucson Administration Building, to first determine energy and water usage by analyzing your TEP, Southwest Gas, Tucson Water bills. With these numbers in hand we would complete an audit of the building in respect to energy and water waste through equipment or building infrastructure elements - ceiling heights, window leakage and so forth. What this is, is the audit would be cost free by this District, and their purposes are actually just a conduit to get us to understand how we could save money by having the audit on energy and water waste, so all I am asking is that we get a more or less an ok from the Council in respect to, is this a good idea. The website is available, you can check it out, everything is done. So the audit would take place and they would give us the numbers, therefore we have at least a more or less a focal point where to start, that we could spend money to save money. Consensus?

Councilor Flagg: I'm glad you brought this up and I think that we need to think about how our City acts green with all this climate change stuff and so, you know, we need to consult people that are green in our town and our part of town and get them involved in it, too. I'd want to make it local as possible.

Mayor Diaz: It's free.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, that's the group that we met with about a week or so?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Ok. I think they were supposed to provide us more information, but I do believe it is something worthwhile pursuing and if we get more information about the recommendations of what they want to do for us, to where it would balance out as to how we would save the money and how much.

Mayor Diaz: There is no cost to the City as far as that goes being done, and that was stated quite a few times. All they want is permission to come in, look at the building, do the audit and put the statistics together and go from there to schedule an audit, an explanation of the audit.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Right.

Mayor Diaz: So that was it.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I was actually at a meeting with these people that had written this letter and are very, very much interested in making South Tucson, so the ones that are going to get this grant, they

are going to work for grants that are available at the Washington D.C. level, they are going to be for South Tucson.

Mayor Diaz: Right. Ok.

Councilor Flagg: Do you know how many cities that they have done this in?

Acting Mayor Rogers: I have no idea.

Mayor Diaz: No, I don't, but the thing is that I think they were doing a school district. I can get the information.

Councilor Valenzuela: Mr. Mayor, so you guys met with this company?

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: When was that? A couple weeks ago?

Mayor Diaz: Two weeks ago.

Vice Mayor Lopez: More or less, yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok, well, I would like to read up on and hear about your meeting with them. That's all I have to say. I would abstain because I don't know much about it.

Mayor Diaz: Do you want a presentation here, then?

Councilor Valenzuela: I will just do my own research and then if need be, I could present the option to (inaudible) but I think I will just do my own research for now. I just need a little more time.

City Attorney Paladini: Mayor, just so we are all clear, this program, or this company, deals strictly with the city-owned buildings. What they do is they will come in and switch out your light fixtures, switch out mostly your electrical and some other things, and they do it all for no cost up front and then you pay out of your electric bill savings as your primary ways it's paid back to the company. So it's not city-wide, they don't do it city-wide, it's strictly your government buildings, the city buildings, but they would require a contract with the company, so they come in and do their assessment and they would then propose numbers to you to see if it makes sense, but it doesn't commit the City to do anything when they do their audit or assessment, you have to enter into a contract which would require approval of the Council.

Mayor Diaz: Yes, that's correct. What they did here was House of Neighborly Service, they did the audit for them. So, consensus?

Councilor Flagg: We don't do consensus, we vote.

City Attorney Paladini: You don't vote on it because it's strictly a report and information for the City and then they would then present what their recommendations are as far as switching out, like I said, light fixtures, and meters and whether you should install solar, but again, for city facilities, and then that would all require you to enter into a contract with this company to then go do that. And then primarily on your electric bill, the savings you have, they give you a 20 year prediction of where your savings are going to go, and then out of that savings is where you are paying them back. So for the first couple of years it's sort of break-even, then over time your savings stay the same, but your payments are going down. So that's where you make your margin

or your benefit. So right now, if the Council wants to invite them in to do an audit, it's all you're doing. You are not committing to anything.

Councilor Valenzuela: I would like to talk to Finance Director/City Manager, to get their thoughts on this.

Ms. Moreno: Absolutely.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you. Is it yes on the audit?

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you. It's a yes on the audit, then. Thank you. That's all the reports that I have, so the next item is Item #07.

ITEM #07 - CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: REPORTS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Ms. Moreno: Yes, good evening, Mayor, Members of the Council. So some of the reports that I had planned for this evening, Vice Mayor beat me to them, but outside of that, I just want to thank the Council for your support. At the end of the day we are all super busy. There's none of us here that haven't felt that pressure, but Code Enforcement is actively out in the community, conducting Code Enforcement. You may have heard from your constituents from time to time that he's out there. I do want to let them know because of our small community and the way our constituents are, no less, I like to make sure we have that in-person notification first before we do any violations. Operations in the front office are running really well, permits are pretty steady, and we are hoping to get an office person started here by the first of May. We had really good interviews and we selected a person to start May 1<sup>st</sup>. Part of that selection included another person we would like to hire part-time for the Planning Department that would be working more in a technical nature in regard to planning. This person has a skill set in grants as well so that person agreed to the offer of part-time, and definitely focus on grants and the technical aspects of the Planning Department. I don't have the dates yet in front of me, but there are going to be two Planning and Zoning meetings coming up here, so I will let you know. Councilor Flagg would like to attend one.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Moreno: We spent a lot of time the last couple of weeks with Finance, and all the Departments are to budget their needs and wants, so for this evening Lourdes will give you more like a surface on what the budget entails and we would like to ask Mayor and Council if we could have another meeting, outside of this meeting, especially on May 9<sup>th</sup>, which would be the second Tuesday of May, so we can sit down and dedicate that meeting to the budget. And that's where we would actually be able to sit down and go over each Department line by line, and have the Departments go ahead and convey to Mayor and Council specifically what is it that their needs are and take it from there. That's my report, and we do have a report from the Public Safety Director as well.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Chief Denogean: Honorable Council, Honorable Mayor, good evening. We are going to talk about our favorite subject again, we're going to talk about the Fire Department. Again, this past Saturday we had staffing issues. We had only one person to start off the morning with. We were able to get two more people in by 12:00, so we were able to have enough people for Saturday. But Saturdays are continuing to be a problem for us. The next two Saturdays we don't have the necessary three people scheduled at this point, but we are still working on it. In May, we have several Saturdays where we don't have the amount of people scheduled that we need.

This is always going to be consistently a problem and something we need to think about. So, I know up to this point I really hadn't given my opinion on the direction I think we should go. I think it's kind of been clear where I think we should go. First of all, I want to say that our firefighters are great people. They do the best they can, our full-time firefighter does a great job, and reserves do a great job. So they are good people, and they do the best they can. But the problem is, we're a Department that relies on reserves and to get up to the full allotment, it would take 12 officers, then you are talking about the equipment, the fire engine trucks, it's just, you're beginning from scratch again. I think financially the best route for the City is to basically contract with another department. I think financially that's the best way for the City to go. I know it's not popular with a lot of people, but that's the direction I think we need to go. Second of all, the service we would get by contracting with another city would be a full service, and that would be a better service than what we are being able to provide to the citizens today. I know a lot of people have always had concerns that we're not going to get the service they need. People will get the service they need, we just have to find the right agency to fill it. It's not an opinion I wanted to have to give. I was hoping, I was very reluctant to put my opinion out there, but I think it's a direction we need to be very blunt about and very clear about, because we're dragging our feet in this situation and we're not taking any action that we need to take. And I need everyone to understand that. Alright, I wanted to keep it quick and short and that's what I need to put out there.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you, Chief.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, any more reports? Ok, moving on to Item #08.

ITEM #08 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Diaz: I think Councilwoman Rita brought this up. Do you have your two guests here?

Acting Mayor Rogers: No, a couple people wanted to say things. I don't know if they are here or not.

Mayor Diaz: Are they here? No?

Acting Mayor Rogers: I don't know. Does anybody want to speak about the Fire item? I gave the names to Ms. Veronica. I wasn't just doing it for them, I just wanted to hear more from the Fire.

Michael: I'm a reserve, my name is Michael.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Yeah, come on up. We the people.

Michael: Good evening. My name is Michael. I'm a Department Reserve with South Tucson Fire. I've been with South Tucson Fire for about two years now. I just wanted to express my concern. I listened to Chief right now in regard to the direction of the Fire Department. I am aware of the staffing issues, I put a lot of hours here to keep the truck active and also my counterparts here, we work a lot of hours to get the truck out, active. I think getting away from the Fire Department and contracting out is an option, but I don't think it's necessarily the number one option. I think there's other options we can look at as far as staffing issues to get other people down here to keep the truck active, to keep the community safe as far as response times, stuff like that. I just feel like reviewing options and making sure, making the best decision for the Fire Department is what I am asking from you today. Just doing away with the Fire Department, it's not just myself, I do like it here with South Tucson, my heart is tied to this place, but I think we also have to look at the community. I think outsourcing to another department, I don't know if that's the right answer. I just wanted to express



that. If there is anything I can do to help contribute to looking at options as far as staffing, budget wise, anything like that, I think I'm pretty sure myself and my other fellow comrades here would also step up to see if there is anything we can do to contribute, not just showing up, coming to work, and staffing the truck.

Councilor Flagg: Do you work full-time at another department?

Michael: I do, I work for Green Valley Fire. I also pick up reserve shifts here on my off days.

Councilor Valenzuela: Michael, thank you for sharing. This is a personal question, but besides you mentioned your heart is here in South Tucson, what motivates you to take shifts here versus another department?

Michael: Just the services here. I feel like the community needs us here. I work for Green Valley Fire. It's a different style of people, so I feel like the community really depends on us firefighters here. And so, that's what really, why I wanted to be a firefighter was serving my community, so I feel like when I come here to South Tucson, I am able to do that a little bit more to individuals that kind of need us more as far as the population here.

Councilor Valenzuela: You mentioned the response time, like in your experience, you know, does South Tucson respond to calls quicker than other departments?

Michael: Not necessarily. I just think for our situation we are able to respond to our demographic a lot quicker. I'll give you an example. With Green Valley the calls are very different. With here, the calls tend to be more emergent, I would say. So to have that delay in response could hurt our citizens here in South Tucson to not be able to provide that emergency care quicker. Green Valley, there is emergencies there, I'm not taking that away. Just here, the type of calls are a little bit different versus Green Valley. So to take that into consideration, to have that delayed response to rely on another agency could hurt the citizens of South Tucson.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok, thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Michael: Did anyone have any questions for me?

Vice Mayor Lopez: I have a question for you. What's the amount of calls you respond to, respond medically versus fire on your shift, so on a weekly basis.

Michael: Here I don't have the exact statistics.

Vice Mayor Lopez: I'm talking about your shift, your shift only. Nobody else's, just yours.

Michael: Here in South Tucson?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes, Sir.

Michael: Ok, so I work almost A, B and C, all the shifts pretty much. A lot of them are medical calls, but there is a higher volume of fire calls here in South Tucson. I go to like, in reference to Green Valley, it's pretty much 80% medical if not more, ok. Here, I have gotten a lot of experience with fire calls because there is a variety of calls here in South Tucson, from medical to fire calls, to accidents. It's a lot more going on here, so in every department, a lot of it is medical, that's pretty much the generalized thing, medical response. But there is



here, those brush fires, structure fires, the accidents. It's a large variety here, but in every department it's pretty much medical calls, if that answers your question.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes, you did.

Michael: Any other questions?

Councilor Flagg: Thanks for your service.

Michael: Thank you. Like I said, I enjoy being here, I really enjoy working for South Tucson Fire and so, like I said, if there's anything else we can do to kind of help out, let us know.

Councilor Flagg: So if you didn't work here, are there other departments that have reserves that you could get more hours, you and the other guys could get more hours?

Michael: Yeah, there's areas like Picture Rocks and things like that that we can go reserve at, I come here.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, I hear ya.

Michael: This is where I used to work.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Michael: Thank you.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you very much.

Mayor Diaz: I would like to make a comment with respect to,

Acting Mayor Rogers: They got their hand up.

Councilor Valenzuela: Someone else would like to speak.

Mayor Diaz: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Acting Mayor Rogers: There's several people.

Capt. Luna: May I approach?

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Capt. Luna: Good evening Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council. I'm sure you recognize me, Capt. Luna, I've worked here with South Tucson for 32 years now. I want to reiterate for myself and the rest of the reserves, because we all communicate, we all know each other very well and in fact, a lot of the reserves that work here or work here as reserves, they started here and then they went to different departments because of money, because of families, they had to but still wanted to come back here. So that is why I love these folks back here now reserving. So as far as the medical calls versus the fire, EMS is the majority of the calls we do. There's more medical than there is fire but there are a lot of different variations of fires as Michael said. So with that, I think everybody's concern and I can speak for myself and the reserves, is that we are concerned about the citizens because the amount of medical response time, even though there's three stations that surrounds South Tucson, Tucson Fire, they're close, they're fairly close but minutes do count in an emergency if you're having a heart attack or emergency situation. So I think that's the biggest concern, the medical portion of it to

where what's going to happen if the response time is a minute later or two minutes later, although they're right here and they're very quick in what they do, Tucson Fire, I mean, but it's more the fact that we care and we want it to be a home town kind of service, and we care about our citizens, probably more so than maybe outsiders. Not that they don't but a lot of us grew up here, spent all our careers here, have family members here, and friends here. So that's kind of the biggest concern that we are concerned about is taking that away, what kind of service is another organization outside of here going to provide. That's where our concern is as a whole. So, any questions?

Councilor Flagg: Does TFD come to virtually all fires here?

Capt. Luna: They come to structure fires, so when it gets dispatched out as a house fire or structure fire or building fire, they automatically respond. Everything else they do not, brush fires, car fires, fire nature unknown, smoke in the area, smell of odor, we handle all that kind of stuff.

Councilor Flagg: Ok.

Capt. Luna: Thank you very much.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Acting Mayor Rogers: There's another one, three more people, maybe.

Mr. Eleazar De La Cruz: Good evening, Mayor, Council. I've been here in South Tucson. I am also part of the Board of Adjustors here in South Tucson. So piggybacking on our fellow Fire people, that would be my concern because we're getting older. We're getting the response; they know us here. When I needed them, they were there less than a minute, they're there. So to me that would be one of my things that would be, ok, I'm getting older now. If I were younger, I'd probably last a little bit longer. Getting older now and it's like the faster the better. Those two minutes might save my life. So that's my concern about our neighborhoods, we have older, and our neighborhood is getting older. I've been here 47 years. I wasn't born here, but I'm from here now and I plan on living here. But that's my concern about the, our gentlemen here, they know us. They know us and know who we are and where everything is at. We get somebody else, yes, they have maps, but they don't know where to go if they can't get in with their big trucks. So that's kind of what my concern would be that we take them away. Yes, we're going to get help, but it might take them a little bit longer because they don't know the exact area. So thank you for hearing me out. Any questions or anything?

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Councilor Valenzuela: I have a question, Eleazar. Let's say it was the City of Tucson that's overseeing the operation, but the reserves would stay the same, if that personnel would still be there and you would have that connection with those firefighters, how would you feel about that?

Mr. Eleazar De La Cruz: Are they still going to be out of the same building?

Councilor Valenzuela: Yeah, they wouldn't shut down. My understanding, City Manager correct me if I am wrong, is that the department wouldn't be shut down, they would be operating through that department, right? So they wouldn't be like moving outside of South Tucson, they would still provide the services and so that is what we are going to go into discussion with to see what are the options so we can still keep our economy and the same reserves, but just another entity that is overseeing the operation.

Mr. Eleazar De La Cruz: It all depends on how you are going to interact with Fire and our City.

Councilor Valenzuela: And this is a question for City Manager. Rita, I would really appreciate it if you would wait your turn to speak, sorry. So the City has a reputation to not respond to calls adequately at a certain time or why is this I'm hearing that South Tucson respond to medical calls.

Councilor Flagg: Or response time in general, maybe the, he's Public Safety Chief so if you could speak to response time, both of you, right?

Councilor Valenzuela: I could sit down but you brought up a really good point.

Ms. Moreno: If I may, Mr. Mayor, Councilor Valenzuela, can I answer a question?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Well, there's two of them.

Mayor Diaz: Go ahead.

Ms. Moreno: Your question was the response time from City of South Tucson?

Councilor Valenzuela: City of Tucson. So is their response time from City of Tucson just longer in general than the City of South Tucson in general? Where are we getting this information from?

Ms. Moreno: I don't know because I don't have any data coming in to be able to fact check that statement. All I know is what I know about this community, you know, we're a 1.2 square mile city. I have always been a huge advocate for A-1 service, but that's not what we are talking about this evening.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok.

Ms. Moreno: What we are talking about is the budget issue. The service is great, I think this City, being the size we are, having the Department that we have, and if we were able to have the staffing levels that we need, absolutely, our constituents, our business people do receive quick response from them. You get anywhere within the City within minutes naturally, but the topic that we, as Staff, brought to Mayor and Council that you have all heard today is not a service model on the response time. It's more about the budget.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: You're next.

Acting Mayor Rogers: And there's another guy too, the guy with a card in his hand.

Mr. Boyle: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council. Thank you for this moment to come before you. This is the first time I have heard about this issue.

Acting Mayor Rogers: I know.

Mr. Boyle: This is the first time I have learned about this issue and I'm concerned about that. As you realize, in the last six years, we have had a lot of real estate companies come into our community and that's because I spoke to the Board of Realtors six years ago to express to them the advantages of your community and why residence should be taken here. In the last six years, our community has developed because of that opportunity. Real estate brokers are coming here to take advantage of wonderful properties for sale as we age as a City because we are retiring. But the truth of the matter is that before I approached the Department of

Real Estate, the truth was we were comp'd outside the borders of the City, so the comp rates of what houses would go for, outside of our City. The point I'm making, my selling point to the Department of Real Estate was this simple. We have our own services; a Police Department and we have a Fire Department. That is such an advantage in such an image of the City to maintain and find a way to make this work. I'm nervous because I own a business here, I own private property here, I am a resident of this City, and I own commercial property here because I believed in this City to make an investment because it is a wonderful City. I've known you, Sir, and you Mayor, and you Vice Mayor, and Councilwoman Anita, Paul, have served many not-for-profits and we just attracted a wonderful non-profit called Women Warriors, the up-and-coming organization of Veterans Affairs. We have opportunities that are incredible. We supported as you were a guest at one of our events. Our Veterans can really support our community and we are down the block from the Veterans Administration, and they are guaranteed home loans. To take away the services, though, that we boast about, I believe is going to hurt the economy of our City. I just wanted that moment to share that with you, because I am the Chairman of your Board of Adjustors, and this is the first I learned of this. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mrs. De La Cruz: Mr. Mayor, thank you for allowing us to approach you with this matter. Quick story, we had a couple of my husband's co-workers retire and they moved up to the White Mountains, their dream house, they had a nice area there. The reason they moved back to Tucson was because of the emergency services that were nearby. They had a plan. They worked all their lives to build something, they built it. But that was the only thing. Her partner had medical issues and they were getting up in age. They weren't getting the services they needed as quickly. I know quickly isn't the issue because right now I hear budget, I hear how quick the response time meant, and I'm thinking back and the gentleman that just spoke right now, is that yeah, we are getting older. We are getting a different community here, different residents, but that also is not as attractive, but it will attract more people if we have our own services. We take pride of the City within a City, the City of South Tucson, and we're proud of being a City within a City and for us to sustain ourselves as much as we can, but little by little we are going to be selling ourselves to other companies or to contractors. How are we going to treat us, the ones that are still young, to be here, to give us the services for a little bit longer, right? Our street is predominantly elderly. My husband and I have good relationships with these elderly that want to stay in their homes. Again, they want to stay in their older homes that are prone to fires. And they are older, they need the medical assistance and we saw how quick and how effective they were during Covid, especially in our street. We already know the sounds of the brakes and sounds of the (inaudible). We got to know them during Covid because they were there right away. One of them was my mother. Right now she has side effects from the Covid when she was hospitalized. She was brought back home. They gave her really good services but at any time, and Lord forbid, she could get sick and that response time, it did affect her lungs, could affect my mother's life, my husband's life, my life. We also have a lot of vandalism around our area, so we have trash cans that are overflowing with trash. Somebody goes by and turns it on, and I know it's budget, but it's also lives that matter, human lives that matter. So I hope you take into consideration, we appreciate our firefighters, we appreciate you. And we also appreciate you. I know we go back and forth, but again, I do reiterate this, this is the first time we hear about this and it's concerning. Thank you for the time.

Mayor Diaz: The gentleman with the glasses.

Mr. Gregorio De La Cruz: Good afternoon, Mayor and Council. I've heard different words and contract is one of them. I am very familiar with contracts and from what I have heard from the firefighters, they've been to my home on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, and I am too familiar with contractors. When I hear contractors, you know, they are out to make the money. And these gentlemen that have been out to our house and work the community, they take it to heart. Ma'am, the words I heard in your Mission Statement was to create a strong community.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Yep.

Mr. Gregorio De La Cruz: So what's happening to our Fire Department within the community. And like my brother said, these things that were taken for granted by myself when we were younger, but now we are getting older. I'm 55 now and I understand the problem is for the Fire Department Emergency Team coming over to assist, now it hits home. And once again, these gentlemen take it to heart. Please reconsider and thank you for your time and have a good afternoon.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you. At this point I would like to quit the discussion because what I would like to say is the fact that -

Chief Denogean: May I just answer the question that was asked about response times?

Mayor Diaz: Let's

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Chief Denogean: In response to the response times, I just want to say response times have never been an issue with the South Tucson Fire Department or with TFD. Now when we get TFD, TFD doesn't come to our medical calls so we couldn't say what the response time is for medical calls. What the issue is that everyone has to remember is it is about the resources you bring to these medical calls or these fire calls. And the problem still is, and everyone has to remember this, when we are talking about our Fire crew, the most we are going to get there is three people. A lot of times when we have people call off at the last second, we will have two, sometimes one person. And we don't have the resources, say, as Tucson Fire Department, to have those in-fills ready to be available like the Tucson Fire Department has. So when you get Tucson Fire Department, you're always going to get that full staffing vehicle. In the City of South Tucson as it is, we are already at two people and remember, national standards are that you should have four people staffing on a fire truck. We haven't done that. Now we can look at other fire departments, some of these other small ones, and they'll go to three people, and when they have those three people they also have an ambulance with two people who are ready to come out and help them from their own department. The problem is we don't have the resources to do that and we're always at risk of people calling out at the last second or people not showing up and we don't have a resource pool available to fill in for that. And when you get one or two people at a medical call, we're putting that person at liability, we are putting our Department at liability and that happens all the time. The other issue is when you have a fire, the reality is if we have a structure fire, we have to have TFD come out because we can't handle a building fire on our own. So we're already using them. We're already at a lack of resources and people have to remember that and it comes down to a financial situation that we all have to look at the realities.

Mayor Diaz: Alright, thank you. At this point then we will go ahead and seize the discussion here. I would like to make some comments in respect to the process here. What has happened is we have allowed ourselves to be, in respect to the Fire Department and most of the finances, financially we are at a point where we have to

make a decision and previous meetings, we have had regarding Fire Department, we looked at four different options. We looked at all kinds of different ways to this, and to Staff, I don't know if everybody is aware of it, but to Staff to completely back up, we need \$2.4 million. The other thing is in order for us to outsource it, right now the proposal is \$1.6 million. And that's every year. So the fact that it is a financial situation we are facing here in the City, and those people, or , that have been here for quite a while have been through bankruptcy, near bankruptcy and just about every financial situation. So we're now here with this situation that is a financial situation and the reason it hasn't been told to the public is that we as a Council are required to make that decision here. So it's the Council that is going to wind up making that decision and when it outsource it we make sure that response time is covered, we make sure that all these little issues from the residents are covered in the discussion between us and outsourcing it to Tucson Fire. It's going to be a fact that all of those figures will be generated. We will come to the Council, we will discuss it at the Council level and from there we make the decision. So thank you very much for your comments and we appreciate those concerns, especially those issues that haven't been talked, or we perceived that hopefully the City Manager, along with all the Staff that will be doing this, I guess, negotiations will see that those issues are addressed. So that's my comments.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Mr. Mayor, Mr. Mayor, you asked me to, I'm the one you said go ahead and speak about the Fire thing and I was able to get it on, and I invited none of the people that are here. They just read the agenda and they are very interested in this. And I very, very much say that the people, many, many people haven't a clue anymore than the people here that this is going on. And that needs to stop. We are for the people. We're the servants. I'm very happy that you all came.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you.

Councilor Flagg: Two things, like one, you're talking about the financial realities, I'd like to hear if the Finance Director has anything to say about that, and the other thing is, didn't we as a Council direct our City Manager to connect with the City of Tucson and try to see if we can negotiate and maybe see what some prices are, you know, we already moved that, didn't we?

Councilor Valenzuela: Last meeting.

Councilor Flagg: And then the Chief says, hey, you know we can't just keep kicking the can down the road, we need to act, it's a crucial situation. I would want financial realities and then an acknowledgement that you need to, like, talk to the City of Tucson to get information and bring it back to us.

Mayor Diaz: That's what I said.

Councilor Flagg: Ok.

Acting Mayor Rogers: That's what he already said.

Mayor Diaz: I already said that.

Ms. Moreno: If I can, Mayor, Councilor Flagg, yes, at the last meeting of April 4<sup>th</sup> I was directed by the Council to go with Option #5. So as I mentioned earlier, this has been an issue that has been inherited over the years. I could spend an hour going over how we got here, starting with the recession, we're here, fast forward so many years later. Nonetheless, yes, kicking the can down the road, our service model, yes, they arrive within

minutes; however, it's not a service issue, it's a financial issue. And that's where we can have our Finance Director in summary go over the options one more time (people talking over each other).

Mayor Diaz: No, wait a minute.

Ms. Moreno: And there was another option that the Mayor brought up which was Option #6 if he would like us to go over that option as well. It is up to the Mayor if he would like us to continue.

Councilor Valenzuela: Mr. Mayor, if I may. I think it was given direction for you to start the conversation with the City of Tucson but I think after everything people have said today, you have a good list to present of wishes, or what the community wants.

Acting Mayor Rogers: I don't think so.

Councilor Romero: I think we should have our own Fire Department

Councilor Flagg: Why can you not interrupt?

Councilor Romero: The Fire Department has always been here in South Tucson. I have been here all my life.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Leave her alone.

Councilor Romero: All my life in South Tucson and I don't think you should choose the City come, then take over the whole City of South Tucson.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Except the Library.

Councilor Romero: If it's that thing, just get rid of South Tucson and give it to the City. The Fire Department is important to us because they been to a house with emergencies. They are right there, right away. We need the Fire Department. Yet the way they took out the garbage, now they come and we pay the City to come in and collect it when we had our own. How many people worked there in South Tucson, my own brother worked in City of South Tucson Public Works. I lived here all my life; my brother did work here all his life, too, in South Tucson until he passed away. So I'm for the City, I want those people to stay here.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you, Anita. As I was saying, if you can just bring those wishes to the City of Tucson and bring back the options. I don't think Option #6 is necessary at this point.

Mayor Diaz: I think the discussion is over. So we stand with the Motion that was done April 4<sup>th</sup>. The direction is that you go ahead and do your negotiations or whatever it is called, to go ahead and do it with your Staff.

Ms. Moreno: Ok.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. The next item is, we need a Motion to Move to Housing. We need a Motion.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I make a Motion we get out of this current Council meeting that we are in right now and move into study session so we can do the South Tucson Housing Authority.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno:



Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.  
Acting Mayor Rogers. Yeah.  
Councilor Romero. Yes.  
Mayor Diaz. Yes.  
Councilor Flagg. Yes.  
Councilor Valenzuela. Yes.

*The City Council Adjourns from Regular Session and Convenes as South Tucson Housing Governing Board*

Ms. Moreno: Is the Resident Member here, Betty?

Ms. Villegas: No she is not.

Commissioner Rogers: Put it in the Minutes.

Chairman Diaz: The Resident,

Ms. Moreno: Adela Ochoa.

Ms. Villegas: I have some things to share with you. If you would take one and pass them down. Thank you. Commissioners, I come before you, I haven't been here in a while, I wasn't at the last couple of meetings. I wanted to just go over the regular monthly reports which is basically the vacancy report. If you go to this one with the spreadsheet, this is our public housing vacant unit report and the actual vacant units that we have available right now are three as of the end of March, I should say. Underneath that you will see the eleven units that are all the fire units that are currently under construction. We finally got our construction crew immobilized and they are working. They just abated all the asbestos and so now they are going to be able to start the reconstruction of those eleven units. On the other side are all the units that have been vacated and left in a situation where we are not able to rent them right now because of the deferred maintenance that has occurred over many years, and so we are in the process right now of getting out an RFP, a Request for Proposal, to reconstruct all these on the reverse side. And you will see most of these are family units and there was a lot of, we've been finding a lot of mold in our units that has to be mitigated and then a lot of just destruction from deferred maintenance, as people haven't lived there for a long time, that lived there and then left it with holes in the walls, broken down doors. Just a lot of things that we have been experiencing, so I don't want to move anybody in until we get them all fixed and so that should happen hopefully soon. It's taking a while because of the procurement and the different contracting laws that the procurement policies and the way that HUD requires us to go out to bid. It's very intense so now that I have Imelda working with me, we're on track, we're getting things done, so I'm really hopeful that we will be able to do a lot more. I think I also gave you, I did a little sheet just a little update sheet. The other sheet, this other one I usually give you on a monthly basis is the Section 8. And this gives you our utilization, utilization meaning out of 132 vouchers, this is how many vouchers we have on the street right now, and some of the reasons why there's barriers to leasing here in South Tucson is noted on this sheet as well. You can go through that. We do have the IGA now, the Inter-Governmental Agreement that was approved by the City so we're not going to be porting in and out because a lot of times what happens is if we give somebody a voucher, they don't find anything here, they go to the City and the City takes the voucher. So we lose it, we end up with, here we go again. One of the good things that is happening right now is we have some landlords that have properties in the City and really like the service that we provide them, the one-to-one landlord to Section 8 communication that we have with them and so this one landlord told us just today that he is willing to, he doesn't have all of

them under Section 8, but he is going to give notice that all of them are going to be Section 8. He's got about four or five in the City of Tucson. So we will be able to take those and with this IGA we will be able to use our vouchers for the City and take advantage of people having a choice because housing choice vouchers, the whole program says you are supposed to give people choices where they want to live. Unfortunately we just don't have the housing here and the housing we do have, people who might say they want to rent Section 8, they don't pass inspection. We want to make sure people are in safe, decent housing as well. Even though we know that the landlord in question, we do have some Veterans living in those places, and four of them fortunately are in the newer section, the newly remodeled section, but there are a few that are not, so we are constantly, when it's time to inspect those properties we make sure that they pass and sometimes they pass by the skin of their teeth, but if they pass so we can't deny them once they do. But we would like to be able to provide more options and more choices for people in our own community, if possible, but if not, we have an opportunity now to utilize our vouchers and hopefully be able to house more people. In the end, that's what we want to do. So as you all know, we had a REAC Inspection and a HUD monitoring and compliance audit all within one month. Along with that we were also going through our regular audit, so we were getting hit from all directions. I just wanted to let you know that as of right now we have not gotten anything back officially from HUD on how it went, but I can tell you by just being there and the questions that they asked that there were some issues. There were issues that my staff and I, first of all, we have never been through either one of these, so it was a good foundation for us to know what is it that we are doing right, what is it that we are doing wrong, and fix those things that we're doing wrong. At least now we know where we stand. Again, I don't have the report yet, I am hopeful it is not as bad as my heart tells me it is, because we worked really, really hard for the past two years and to know we went in there optimistic and to know that there's still a lot that has to happen. But we are also hopeful, and I have a great staff that will continue to do just what we have to do. So as soon as I hear, you'll probably hear at the same time because HUD usually will send a letter directly to you all as well. The other item that I have on here was the wait list. So we have been wanting to open up our wait list and the reason that we haven't been able to is because a lot of regulations, HUD regulations, have changed and we have to update our policies and we have what they call Admin Policies, and this is all on the website if you ever go to the Housing website. We have the Admin Plan for Section 8, which is the Section 8 policy and then we have the low rent public housing policy, which is called the ACOP, which is, both of those are in PDF on our website if you want to read through them. They are about 300 pages each. And that's one of the reasons that it's taken us a while to get all the updates in there because we have to go through 300 pages of policy and implement the new revisions. So, Imelda is working on one and I am working on the other. The most important one is the Section 8 one, with the Admin Plan, because that of course deals a lot more with the wait list. So does our public housing but that one a lot of people are waiting for that one to open. The other reason is because we also need to make sure that our software is up to date. A lot of Housing Authorities right now are going to online applications, and they are using the lottery system online, so the automated system will automatically be a lottery. So it doesn't matter if you apply first or if you apply last, everyone is going to have the same opportunity. And that's what I like about the lottery system. If people cannot apply online, we still have other ways of doing that. We will be able to help them. We are going to get our libraries with the application online as well so they can help us and other non-profits around here with computers that can help people apply. We're a small PHA so we're probably going to stop at 1,000 applications just because we wouldn't have the capacity to administer more than that. So I've got our software, our IT person looking into that part of it as well. And then I also met with the Morris Justice Center. They work a lot with fair housing and so I had a discussion with them and our Southwest Fair Housing Director

because I wanted to make sure that we are following all the new laws for housing when we do go out for our wait list opening up. So those are all things happening behind the scenes for the wait list.

Commissioner Flagg: Do you have a timeline, a rough timeline on that?

Ms. Villegas: I'm really shooting for mid-June at the latest. We're almost there and that's the other thing, we'll probably have to call a Special Meeting for you all to approve the Admin Plan and the ACOP Plan and the wait list opening, and so you can expect that. If it doesn't line up with one of your meetings, I'll have to call a Special Meeting for you to do that. And then we have the Agency Plan, every year we have to do an Agency Plan and actually it's every five years that we do the Agency Plan. I did it in 2021 and it's good until 2025 and every year, once you do your Agency Plan, the five-year plan, every year you have to submit an annual report or an annual update to HUD. And that requires for us to, once again, have that same Agency Plan out there for comment period. So that's where we are at right now. That's going to end on the 24<sup>th</sup> and that also is on the website for anybody that wants to read it again. And we just got our new allocation for our '23 to '27 Action Plan ready. That's our Capital Fund Improvement Funds that we use to make our improvements at the actual site and during the compliance, the person that works with Capital Funds walked the grounds with us and brought to our attention things that qualify under those funds for us to take care of, including changing out the windows to double-paned windows because a lot of them are still single pane, and making other improvements. We are working right now on fixing an elevator that is very old and there are no more parts for it, so we are having it replaced and that itself is costing \$128,000. That was something that was in a plan that was approved by you all in 2019 and they fixed two of them, but they never did the third one. So now we are using 2019 and 2020 money to fund that elevator. So we are on track to spend the funding that has been given to us and we're still working on some capital improvements that our residents, I already had one public meeting, two public meetings, with them this year on some of the things they want to see, and it is always safety. It's always getting an area for dogs because nobody picks up after their dogs and other things, and fixing the fences and not letting people in, so the cameras are almost ready to go live and that is something that will help I think, as far as the safety as well. The other item that you have before you that I gave you was the Minutes from October 20<sup>th</sup> that never got approved because it was after new elections and then no meetings, and then I noticed that it didn't get on the agenda this time either, so next time this is going to be on the agenda for you to approve. And the other thing that we felt was better based on our auditing and compliance, is that when I give my report to you guys on the third Tuesday of the month, that the Minutes from the prior meeting be approved separately so that we can have those separated out in our files as well. So you can be expecting that. We will ask you for that at our next meeting when it's on the agenda. I know some of you weren't here on October 20<sup>th</sup>, so should read them, but you should probably recuse yourself, but for the next meeting. The other thing that came up during our compliance was they wanted a copy of our bylaws and I remembered that when I was here in 2021, we redid the bylaws, and you all approved them.

Commissioner Rogers: And I was there.

Ms. Villegas: So I thought it would be a good idea to hand those out so that everybody could read them, and that's the Declaration of Policy that you see. And you'll see little different things in reference to the bylaws of this group. So with that said, I can turn it over to our Finance Director if you would like to hear a finance report.

Ms. Aguirre: Let me see if I can do something about -

Commissioner Valenzuela: I have one question for Betty. Do you have a grant writer that you work with?

Ms. Villegas: No, we don't. We usually, I'll call the County. There's somebody at the County that will help us with grants or I know that the City of Tucson will also ask us if we want to be included in the grant. There are a lot of opportunities especially for underserved and disinvestment communities like ours, but grant writing takes a bit of time and I don't have the time.

Commissioner Valenzuela: Do you think that we should look into something of an IGA with the County to help us with grants?

Ms. Villegas: They actually have, we met with them, we met with Dorothy Heiman, and it's not an IGA but I think it would be a really good idea to see if they would be willing to help us with, and I've sent Dorothy grants that I thought would be interesting for us to look at, but maybe with an IGA there would be more accountability, if you will.

Commissioner Valenzuela: So if you could look into it, that would be good. Thank you.

Ms. Villegas: Yeah.

Ms. Aguirre: I'm going to hand out the report.

Commissioner Rogers: Is this all about Housing, we're still on Housing?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, we're starting with Housing. These are the financials about Housing as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. At the last meeting I believe I was only able to provide you with an expenditure report and here we've got all the revenues as well. So you see on the cover it's a really, really easy breakdown, an at-a-glance for each one of the different funds. All of the detailed reports are behind that. So by now I am pretty sure that you all are aware that there are three different sets of funds, Section 8, so that's at the top right there, Section 8, that's Fund 215. Year to date, that fund is running a deficit of \$38,000, the reason being there's been some transition over at the City of Tucson in their computer system so there is a little bit of a backlog in paying our Housing Authority for their port-ins. Fund 216, that's low rent, that's the low-income public housing. Currently, year to date, that fund is running a surplus. What you see here is a half a million dollars surplus; however, what is included in this half a million is \$300,000 from that separate additional check Betty received for the fire mitigation and rebuilding. So, in reality it's about \$200,000 in fund balance which is still a lot. It's way better than they were before Betty got here. So, another testament that Housing is doing a great job of administering their money well, making sure they use up all their funds and use it up well. Now going into Fund 220 which is the Capital Fund Project. Betty receives a five-year award every single year. So right there you will see the first one. We call it CFP. CFP 2018, that one was completed. The obligation date for that one was last year, the money has all been spent because we had a later date to spend it all. And it's been spent. The next one, CFP 2019, the obligation end date for that one was April 15<sup>th</sup> of this year. What that means is that 90% of the entire award, which is about \$350,000, 90% has to be obligated in the form of a contract or estimates, P.O.'s, by this date. When that reporting was done and completed, Betty was able to report 100% obligated on April 15<sup>th</sup>. And she has mentioned to you all what she included there was the elevator contract. So that helped complete the obligation. Now CFP 2020. CFP 2020, that one we are just now starting to utilize it. Betty had mentioned that we were able to appropriate the remaining portion of that elevator contract to that CFP 2020. Nonetheless, you will see in the budget that has a pretty big chunk to go. The obligation end for that one is next year in March, so we have some time to obligate. CFP 2021, the obligation end date for

that one was in February, February 2023. That one has also been obligated at 100%, which is good and what was put towards that plan was the security cameras, a contract you all approved a couple meetings back. So the work can start getting completed, and the reason why you see deficits under CFP 2020, a deficit of \$23,000, and CFP 2021 a deficit of \$106,000 is that when we performed our obligation reporting and draw down for a month, we do it the following month. So these monies actually came through in April. That's one we recovered. You're going to see when we ran a little bit of a deficit, you have money in your low-income public housing to cover that as we just went through. All we did was just like any grant, we recovered it the following month. So if you all have any other questions, let me know. You have all the details here attached. I will be using these figures to work with Betty on next year's budget. So we are going to estimate our actuals at the end of the fiscal year, where we think we are going to end up at the end of June and then going forward with what she is anticipating with regards to her operating expenses, daily operating expenses, as well as the cost of personnel, things like that.

Ms. Villegas: And if I can just add that we are 100% HUD funded. Most Housing Authorities get help from their municipalities but obviously South Tucson doesn't have that luxury, if you will. So we are 100% HUD funded and we have been able to sustain that and work within that budget. We did add additional staff which is really good, and give our employees some raises as well.

Commissioner Flagg: What percent is the City of Tucson, the Public Housing Authority? How much do they put into that?

Ms. Villegas: I don't know their numbers.

Commissioner Flagg: Is it significant?

Ms. Villegas: Yeah, I mean, I don't remember. The other item, and I should have done it in the very beginning, is a Resolution. It's on there and if I can just speak to it.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-004 OF THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE WRITE-OFF OF \$8,201.00 IN UNCOLLECTIBLE DEBTS FOR THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY ("STHA") AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT SAME TO HUD AND ITS FEE ACCOUNTANT

Ms. Villegas: This person that we evicted, we worked with her for a long time trying to get her on track, recommended rental assistance, we got her on two payment plans and she would start off ok and she would just disappear, and finally at the end she pretty much, even though her kids were living in the house, her adult kids, she really wasn't around, so we weren't sure what was going on. So we did have to evict her, and she ended up with a balance of \$8,201. This is one person and because she was working her rent was higher than normal. It was 30% of her income so she had sufficient income to pay.

Commissioner Valenzuela: Did she apply for eviction prevention?

Ms. Villegas: We do that in-house. We have somebody, Rachel, that helps people apply online and she never did.

Chairman Diaz: So we need a Motion to go ahead and write off the debt?

Commissioner Lopez: I'd like to make a Motion that we approve Resolution No. 23-004 of the Housing Governing Board of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, approving and adopting the write-off of \$8,201.00 in uncollectible debts for the South Tucson Housing Authority ("STHA") and authorizing the execution of this Resolution for the purpose of authorizing the City of South Tucson Housing Authority Director to submit same to HUD and its fee accountant.

Commissioner Rogers: Second.

Chairman Diaz: There's a Motion and a Second. Any discussion? Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno:

Commissioner Lopez. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers. Aye.

Commissioner Romero. Aye.

Chairman Diaz. Yes.

Commissioner Flagg. Yes.

Commissioner Valenzuela. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers: Thank you.

Commissioner Lopez: Thank you.

Ms. Villegas: Thank you.

Chairman Diaz: I have an item here I would like to discuss since we are on the subject and it's in regard to discrimination about income, especially for housing. The chart the City of Tucson has done, went through the Courts and so forth, so I would like for you to go ahead and start discussion. This is the City of Tucson's draft copy of the Ordinance that they passed. I'd like for you to go ahead and start discussion with our City Attorney to see if, first of all, we need the resolution first, of course, then to add this non-discrimination into income within our jurisdiction. So here it is, thank you.

Ms. Villegas: Thank you very much. It was something I've been keeping my eye on.

City Attorney Paladini: Direction is fine and it's not on the agenda to discuss, it's a draft Ordinance so we can't discuss it.

Commissioner Rogers: Thank you.

Ms. Villegas: Alright, so with that said, thank you Commissioners until the next time.

Commissioner Rogers: When will you be gone, quitting?

Ms. Villegas: Probably the end of August.

Commissioner Rogers: Oh, so you will be here a while, ok.

Ms. Villegas: Yeah, I'll be here for a few more months.

Commissioner Rogers: Thank you. I forgot when so I didn't want to say goodbye to you if it was wrong.

Ms. Villegas: I'll let you know.



Chairman Diaz: I need a Motion to Adjourn Housing and Resume the Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Flagg: So moved.

Commissioner Lopez: Second.

Chairman Diaz: It was Moved and Seconded. Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno:

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Flagg. Aye.

Councilor Valenzuela. Yes.

*The City Council adjourns from Housing Session and convenes as the City Council in Regular Session.*

Mayor Diaz: So Item #09.

ITEM #09 - RESOLUTION NO. 23-10 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING, RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE GRANT-IN-AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA ("GRANTEE") AND THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION ("NATION")

Mayor Diaz: I will need a Motion for Resolution No. 23-10 (Mayor Diaz read the above Resolution). We will need a Second.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: And discussion? Manager?

Acting Mayor Rogers: I didn't hear anyone Move it.

Councilor Valenzuela: Do we have any information on this?

Ms. Moreno: Yes. I will turn this over to the Finance Director, Lourdes Aguirre. This is a Finance agenda item.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you City Manager, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council, this is a routine Grant-In-Aid Agreement. We received notification of the award a couple of months ago, so we were just recently able to make contact with the Nation's attorney to work out the Agreement. In essence it is pretty standard and similar to the ones we have done in the past. There is a portion of the award that is listed on the Agreement that is to go to Saint Kateri for \$14,151. The remaining \$189,000 is to come to the City of South Tucson for the purchase of vehicles. And so, the way the Police Chief is going to be utilizing that money is actually purchasing two marked vehicles, which we are currently working on installing the equipment on, and two administrative unmarked vehicles. Much needed money to build our vehicle pool. I'm not sure if any of you have any questions.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah. What is an administrative unmarked vehicle? Is that a cop car without -

Chief Denogean: It's a cop car, or a car that we will use for our detectives or a car for officers to drive to training, or if they have to go somewhere local, stuff like that.



Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor, Finance Director, so do we get this every year, this grant?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor and Councilor Valenzuela, we apply every year and I think we received maybe three awards between Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui, we've received awards the last three or four years. They have been very, very generous to the City of South Tucson, allowing for the purchase of at least two vehicles at a time every time we get an award.

Councilor Valenzuela: And who makes the decisions of how to distribute that money?

Ms. Aguirre: So Mr. Mayor, Councilor Valenzuela, multiple departments actually apply for the grants. Since this is a routine grant we already know more or less when it is going to open up, we know what the format is, it is a little less technical than some of the bigger federal grants that are out there when it comes to the application process and so yes, every year it's been the Police Department, I know the Fire Department has put in as well, I know the Public Works Department has always consistently put in for equipment and vehicles. It just so happens they like to award for that use.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: I was going to add that another piece to this grant is the money going to the Saint Kateri Church. So aside from this grant, it allows for other municipalities to apply, so local non-profits are able to apply as well. So if they are granted the award, then the local jurisdiction is a passing-through. So in this case, (inaudible) received the City's support for the application so they were awarded the grant in the amount in front of you. It comes to the City or local jurisdiction for approval. It comes before the Mayor and Council on what we apply for.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Councilor Flagg: There's not a legal conflict with us funding, or being the pass-through to a Church?

City Attorney Paladini: No, these grants are required as part of the Gaming Compact with various Tribes or Nations around the State, and I don't know what the percentage is, it functions on a percentage of their gaming revenue, and so, in respect to public safety funding, one way or another, but no, it's very common to pass through, whether it's Habitat for Humanity, or a church or something. It just passes through, it's just paperwork at that point because the recipient, the right has to be the local government, but the actual grantee could be a non-profit or a church.

Councilor Flagg: Ok.

Vice Mayor Lopez: I have a question, Mr. Mayor. This grant, does both Tribes pay into it or is it just one at a time, or can they both pay at the same time?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor and Vice Mayor Lopez, it depends on who we are applying to and for what. They are both independent Nations so there's been times when one has awarded the City funds and the other one hasn't. They pick and choose; I don't know what their rationale is for doing that, but does that answer your question?

Vice Mayor Lopez: No.

Ms. Aguirre: It's 12%, 12% is the amount, and as our attorney said, it's really mandated through the State Statute for Gaming to provide communities with 12% of their profit, but they each really get their own applications. Pascua Yaqui has their own and so does the Tohono O'odham.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Any more discussion?

Chief Denogean: I just wanted to say something. So just so you are aware, we have put in an application for Pascua Yaqui, but we have not, we got passed over here in this last quarter and we are going to look at it again next quarter in June. But each one is a separate entity like she said.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Is there any more discussion? Call the Roll.

Ms. Moreno:

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Yes.

Councilor Flagg. Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela. Yes.

Ms. Moreno: Motion Passes.

Mayor Diaz: The next item is #10.

ITEM #10 - STUDY SESSION: GENERAL FUND - FY 2024 BASELINE BUDGET (PRELIMINARY) AND DEPARTMENT NEEDS UPDATE

Mayor Diaz: This is in regard to the Study Session, General Fund, so I need a Motion to go into Study Session.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Study Session?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I make a Motion we get out of the Council Meeting and go into a Study Session.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: It's been Moved and Seconded. Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno:

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Flagg. Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela. Yes.

*The City Council enters into Study Session.*

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council, at this time we are going to be resuming our conversations regarding the Baseline Budget for next year. So what you all will see in your packets are basically the detailed report with the estimated actuals through the end of the year, where we think we are going to end at June 30<sup>th</sup>, and then also our estimates for next year. As promised, we held meetings with every single Department that is funded through the General Fund and we had discussions about what they anticipate for next year with regards to their operating expenses, any needs, any wants, and in reality every single Department is doing the best they can. And their requests, their needs, have been just consistent. So, I did not make any changes to the Baseline Budget to incorporate any of those needs because the process is, I give you all the estimate for the Baseline, where we are starting off next year. I've included in there any anticipated expenses related to personnel, whether it's retirement rates going up, the cost of insurance going up, I do account for any increases in contracts that we anticipate. As I mentioned to you at the last meeting, I did project expenses for next year with a 5% increase to count for inflation and that was applied to every single Department. After we meet with the Departments, we look at their requests, we quantify them, and we share them with you all. Mayor and Council also takes this opportunity to talk about what it is they want to see, whether it's additional staffing, whether it's investment in any other equipment, things of that nature. And then we quantify, and you all collectively will come up with a consensus on the list. So what you see here, I think it's the second page of your packets, this is an example of last year's budget, a highlighted summary. For those in the public, this is all posted online. It's available through Government, Finance, and then Reports. So all this information is posted online. And you will see there I have pretty much given you all a walk-through for last year. Last year where we started, decisions Mayor and Council took to remedy that deficit because last year we were going into the budget even with a deficit of half a million dollars. Mayor and Council took measures to utilize federal funding, and Mayor and Council also decided how do we best utilize monies supplied in contingency through fund balance, through savings. So it's all laid out here. Mayor and Council priorities as well as Department needs at the bottom. And I let you all know exactly where I put those all in the budget. I give you reference numbers to the GL's, I give you everything. So at this time, a couple of things I want to draw your attention to. First of all, in the Courts, or actually, let's just do a really quick recap of revenues. So again, revenues for City sales tax, we are looking at a 3% increase for next year. I'm keeping a really close eye on those, sales tax revenues, and if I see an increase and I think it could hold up next year, I will let you all know that I'll be increasing it. We are still waiting to see whether or not the City is going to be, actually, stands to lose money due to consumption tax.

City Attorney Paladini: The Governor vetoed that.

Ms. Aguirre: The Governor vetoed that? Were they actually waiting on something else? Was there a possibility of that being overturned?

City Attorney Paladini: No. They can't override it. There's an attempt to bring it back but the Governor could veto it again.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you, Jon, so much for staying on top of that for me.

City Attorney Paladini: (Inaudible)

Ms. Aguirre: Wonderful. So that is good news for you all because that means that we won't be reducing anything from estimated revenues. Very good. So there was one-time monies, ok, one-time monies included in urban revenue sharing and this is from the State shared revenues. So the State gave one-time monies to

cities and towns in anticipation for a couple of changes that are occurring as a result of Legislature, so all in all, we are looking at increased revenues for next year of half a million. So that pretty much covers revenues. One of the changes that I just want to point out to you all here, a slight change in Courts. We're just looking at amending the amount appropriated toward utilities to match what our estimated actual for the current year is. So, a difference of \$2,700. Those are added there. With regards to the Fire Department, what you see there highlighted is capacity, budget capacity. So essentially the contribution rate for pensions went down slightly for this fiscal year, but instead of taking that savings away, I left it in here keeping the Fire Department budget whole. So that \$174,000 is still in here. So that leaves their budget at \$1 million. I just wanted to draw your attention to that. Police Department. Police Department, page 6 of 9, under equipment, and we talked about this, it's the upgrade in their radio system. The City of Tucson and FEMA, City of South Tucson piggybacks on their dispatch system so they are going to encrypted radios. They are very expensive, so we have appropriated \$200,000, and so this is to cover the cost of radio replacement both for Police and Fire. Now if there is an option to mitigate that cost, we are going to be looking at that very closely. The Chief is currently working very closely at taking a count of how many radios, each radio, and this is not the radio with all the bells and whistles, it's about \$6,100. I'm being told they never break but if they do they become obsolete because you have to update them. Technology.

Councilor Valenzuela: Sorry, I have a quick question. Do we have body cams?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, yes we do.

Councilor Valenzuela: What is the condition of those, do they need to be updated?

Chief Denogean: I think we are good for right now. They're not the top of the like like, say, Tucson, but we have body-worn cameras. Every officer on regular duty wears a body-worn camera and they are functioning, and they are working.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok, thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you, Chief. If you go on to page 7 of 9, there I highlighted public buildings, and I think my rationale for highlighting that is that this is the area where you, depending on how much we utilize this year, we may have to bump some of that to the following year. That's because of scheduling the work to be done here at the building. Let's see, on page 8 of 9, under non-departmental, there you see your contingency line item. So at the last meeting we were asked about some of the items on this wish list, page 58 which I had shared with you all at the beginning, and one of the items was a rear loader for Public Works. Theirs just keeps breaking down, they've been trying to rebuild it for many, many years. So now it is at the end of its life, so we have actually already submitted the purchase order to complete the purchase; however, I'm being told that all commercial vehicles are, there's a delay, there's a backlog, they're on back order as a result of Covid. I imagine that's what we see with the car industry. But in essence, they were running about twelve to fifteen months out, but we placed the order, and they are saying the soonest they could probably have it for Public Works is by the end of December.

Councilor Flagg: Do we rent one right now, do they need it?

Ms. Aguirre: Well Mr. Mayor, Councilor Flagg, Public Works, they have one but it's always a challenge to see how long it is going to run for. They feel confident that they can keep it on life support until then, but they did pump in a little bit of money to repair some major things with the current rear loader. So that is one of the

reasons why I am drawing your attention to this because by the time the City actually expenses or pays for the rear loader, it will be in the next fiscal year. So that is why I am reducing expenditures, or reduced actual from Column D by the full amount and I'm just putting it all in the budget for next year.

Councilor Flagg: Did the Council approve a back loader or is that the right question?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, Mr. Mayor Councilor Flagg, they did as a matter of fact, last year at the same time when we went through this process, that's when it was approved.

Councilor Flagg: Ok, yeah.

Ms. Aguirre: Absolutely. So we actually split up the amount appropriated for that purchase between contingency and equipment lease. You see it there? So basically reducing it from projected actuals, putting it in the budget for next year. All in all, if you go on to page 9, you see a summary there. For next year we're looking at revenues of \$6.7 million, \$6,779,000, and expenditures of \$6,827,000. It's a deficit of \$48,000. We are anticipating this year ending with a surplus, a surplus of \$644,000. So the net between this year and next, you have some wiggle room to utilize that \$596,000. So just keep that in the back of your mind as we go through this process and discuss Department needs and get those quantified for you, as well as your needs and your wishes, how you would like to see the money utilized. So this is just the surplus from this year, going into next year, \$596,000. You could potentially have a little bit of back fill from your Fund Balance. So you all know the City has been accumulating a Fund Balance, slowly but surely through one-time occurrences, one-time revenues, one-time savings, but it's accumulated. So you all adopted a Fund Balance Policy so the level for that Fund Balance Policy would be \$1.3 million because it's set at 20%. So Fund Balance Policy at \$1.3 million, excess Fund Balance about \$700,000, and you are starting with \$596,000, just on this year. Just keep that in the back of your mind, you know, we certainly want to exercise good budgeting practices and be conservative because you never know what could happen to bring it down. So we always want to make sure we have a little bit there. As the City Manager mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, we hope to come back and meet with you all during a Special Meeting just so we can dedicate a little more time, just for the budget, discuss what we come up with, what we quantify.

Councilor Flagg: That would be good, especially if we get the packet, however you say it, a little bit early so we could look at it and figure it out.

Ms. Aguirre: Definitely. And so one of the things I'm going to hand out to you all is an example of what we worked with in the past. So this is a list of Department needs and this is from Fiscal Year 2021. You're going to see I wrote my notes on there, but it's a good point of reference, especially because most of the Departments came back and they pretty much said the same thing. It's a good point of reference because it gives you an idea of what it is that we already accomplished. So it has my notes on it. So, under Fire Department, you can see there what their needs were back in 2021. It hasn't changed. As a matter of fact, when we went through the options, the cost of making it whole, we went over that, how much it would cost to make it whole. Police Department, we had a couple things listed on here. It just helps give you a point of reference, you know, how much a Sergeant, and Officer costs, and you know, a wish list. This go around the Police Chief is not asking for additional staff but he has come to you all requesting just competitive wages so he could retain the Officers he has. So I will come back to you all with, well actually, I think we calculated the cost at for every fifty cents, it's about \$41,000, the cost for every fifty cents, Police Department. So just keep that in the back of your mind. City Manager, I think this kind of dovetails along with Development Services

and her mentioning that this new person we will be bringing on. There was a bit of restructuring of the Development Services Department, and you all approved an IGA with, I think it was Pima County, for additional Building Inspector, Planning services as needed. This is just to be able to utilize our resources best as possible. The position was created to provide additional administrative support.

Councilor Valenzuela: Is that equivalent to an Economic Development firm?

Ms. Aguirre: No, Mr. Mayor and Councilor Valenzuela, it's not but it dovetails into the grant component of it but not into the economic development.

Councilor Valenzuela: I don't know if this prior contract, did we ever hire an economic development firm?

Ms. Aguirre: So the contractual agreement with DWE Consultants was for consulting and economic development.

Councilor Valenzuela: Oh, I see.

Ms. Aguirre: That's why I left my note on there. With regards to City Clerk Admin, back in 2021 there was a need for a full-time Admin Clerk, but things are being revamped. Processes are being streamlined. I just mentioned to you all at the last meeting how it is that the City in building permits is bringing in more money. As of December it surpassed the budget submitted for the entire year. So everything is working really well. So maybe this is something you want to consider further down the road, but for now we will be filling the vacant position. Finance, with regards to, I have my notes here, currently at that point in 2021 they had a someone on contract providing additional service, so I don't know, maybe at some point I'll request to make the part-time position that I have, full, because I do need some help. So that would be my list. I think that position is currently budgeted for maybe like 32 hours a week. I'll quantify that for you along with everything else. With regards to IT, I think that we are anticipating major upgrades in the Police Department replacements, computers. We are trying to find a potential funding source for those in one of the restricted funds and going through the State as well. The Smart and Safe Program. We are going to see how much we have there and how far we can stretch it to make use of our money.

Mayor Diaz: I have a question. The last report we had on finances, I was kind of looking at the longevity report in regards to the, starting with the Public Works Department, permanent employees. It's not in here?

Ms. Aguirre: No, Mr. Mayor, no. Unfortunately, I didn't have an opportunity to quantify, that's why I want to come back to you all as soon as possible in a Special Meeting, to be able to go over that, but it is on a list of things to do, longevity report.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. So the other thing is that, I see that Animal Control was taken out, but what are they doing now for Animal Control for the City of South Tucson?

Ms. Aguirre: So Mr. Mayor, the service is the same, the process is the same. You call Pima Animal Care Center, except the City of South Tucson no longer required to pay for it. It was costing the City a lot of money so we worked out an agreement where they will continue to serve the community at no cost to the City. The agreement was signed, I believe, last year and I think it was for three to five years.

Mayor Diaz: So anybody that has a complaint goes to Pima Animal Control?

Ms. Aguirre: That is correct, Mayor.



Mayor Diaz: Ok, so they don't do the roundups anymore when the City requests, you know, I guess we used to request that to be done.

Ms. Aguirre: Well, Mr. Mayor, I believe there are potential areas of concern that could merit a call to the Director there and see what they can do.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, and the other question is that, I keep forgetting, where do we have that Garcia on there every year?

Councilor Flagg: What?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, where do we have it, or why do we have it?

Mayor Diaz: Ok, why.

Ms. Aguirre: It's the face holder, I know that is where I need to go to receive the checks, even though the checks we receive made it to that case are minimal, but I can remove it if you would like. It doesn't make much of a difference.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: Just going back down the line, so one of the things, Finance and IT, we did implement the online bill pay which is working really well. We did purchase software for permits, for permit tracking and for Code Enforcement as well, and so we want to add possibly another module to that and so that is going to cost us a bit for business licensing. But the good thing is that ties in well with our online bill pay, and that ties in well with our accounting system. So they are really good companies, and the good thing is that we were able to obtain all of this, make sure we are seamlessly at a reasonable cost. So that is what we are working on here, integrating everything so that it is easier for the user. It makes it easier for them to present their payments online. So that's Finance and IT. Planning and Zoning, we just briefly discussed about the restructuring in their area. The Magistrate, one of the things they had on here was their need for a full-time Clerk. However, in our discussions with them recently, they are doing the best that they can, and did you recall anything, City Manager?

Ms. Moreno: What they need? No.

Ms. Aguirre: They are doing what they can with what they have as well as everybody else.

Ms. Moreno: They did mention working in this room, upgrading the room, new carpeting, new area for the jury, a new section where the audience sits, maybe putting in pews, they did mention that.

Councilor Flagg: Coming from Casa Maria it looks really good.

Ms. Moreno: The building was built in 1988 so this is like the original rug, the original dais, the original seats, everything around you.

Ms. Aguirre: Just needs a little sprucing up. We will get a quote on changing out the carpet.

Ms. Moreno: They did mention that.

Ms. Aguirre: So that's one of the things, and yeah, that's a constant, they are going to bring it up every time. Public Works, I mean, you have a long list of needs there and we all know that, they do what they can with



what they have. We are getting a new rear loader and they are also currently in the process of getting another striping machine for streets. Anything else with regards to Public Works, I don't really remember. Allow me to scroll through my notes here. They are going to be moving forward with securing the premises. This is one of the things we have talked about in the previous years.

Vice Mayor Lopez: The metal grates, metal fence?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, where the fence is goes with the current fence. I think we are also going to have a conversation with Pima County and see if they want to cover the cost of their portion there. Just basically that was one of the recommendations that was given to us as well from the walk through we had with our insurance company, just a way to keep it secure. Anything else, City Manager, you can think of?

Ms. Moreno: One thing they mentioned was working on an IGA with the City of Tucson.

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, so hopefully we can come back to you with that option as well. The City had it in place for many, many years because again, we do not have the staffing, we do not have the equipment, and a lot of times vendors for street repair supplies don't sell in small quantities. We just ran into that a couple of months ago. They were having a hard time because they weren't licensed to sell small quantities for street repair materials for our little City. I'm just going through an IGA with the City of South Tucson to be able to utilize their vendors through them. That would be very beneficial and also to continue accepting their assistance when we have to do any work on the street lights, computers, their system. So hopefully we will bring that back to you all. Non-Departmental, there's a list there for personnel contingency, so Mayor and Council has worked really hard to set Fund Balance Policy, you had consistent contingency for the last couple of years. And I'll be coming back to you all with the tenure, what did you call that, Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Diaz: Contingency, no, longevity.

Ms. Aguirre: Longevity, with the longevity study. Longevity study, we will come back to you all. So this is all to give you all ideas of in essence what the Departments are looking at, what they have been asking for. You have the current budget list with you here. Just keep that in mind as we walk through the process, and hopefully we will have some more Special Meetings.

Mayor Diaz: I would like to see if we can add street sweeping. Last time I looked at it was \$78.00 per hour and that was without equipment and labor, but it was pretty inexpensive to do, so I would say you have some \$15,000 in here in Public Works, but I think street sweeping, at least bi-annual, twice a year, that's it. You don't need it every month, just street sweeping.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll definitely look into those sets of options and you're referring to, ensuring that is included in the IGA?

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Ms. Aguirre: I'll put that on my list of things to do. So if any of you have any questions, let me know. I tried to keep this as brief as possible because you all have had very long meetings in the last couple of weeks, but we will come back. Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. So that brings us to Item #11, Adjournment. Oh wait, we need to adjourn Study Session and Reconvene into Regular Meeting. May I have a Motion?

Councilor Flagg: So moved.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: We have a Motion and Second. Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno:

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Flagg. Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela. Yes.

*Council Exits Study Session and Enters into City Council Regular Meeting.*

ITEM #11 - ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Diaz: Do we have a Motion?

Councilor Flagg: So moved.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: All in favor, say Aye.

Councilors: Unanimous Aye.

The meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_ p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 18th day of April, 2023. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Veronica Moreno, City Clerk